

# THE PROMIS THREAT

**The stolen "Promis" software has been illegally modified for a number of covert operations including high-resolution satellite surveillance and subtle manipulation of global financial markets.**

**by Michael C. Ruppert © 2000**

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*US journalist Mike Ruppert, a former Los Angeles police officer who now runs a website that seeks to expose CIA covert operations, said he met with RCMP investigator McDade on August 3 in LA. Ruppert said the RCMP officer was anxious to see documents he received three years ago from a shadowy Green Beret named Bill Tyre [sic], detailing the sale of rigged Promis software to Canada.*

— *The Toronto Star*, September 4, 2000

Only the legends of Excalibur, the sword of invincible power, and the Holy Grail begin to approach the mysterious aura that has evolved in the world of secret intelligence around a computer software program named "Promis". Created around the mid-1970s by former National Security Agency (NSA) programmer and engineer Bill Hamilton, now President of Washington, DC's Inslaw Corporation, Promis (Prosecutor's Management Information System) crossed a threshold in the evolution of computer programming.

Working from either huge mainframe computer systems or smaller networks powered by the progenitors of today's PCs, Promis, from its first "test drive" a quarter-century ago, was able to do one thing that no other program had ever been able to do. It was able to read and integrate any number of different computer programs or databases simultaneously, regardless of the language in which the original programs had been written or the operating system or platforms on which that database was then currently installed.

It is difficult to relegate Promis to the world of myth and fantasy when so many tangible things, like the recently acknowledged Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) investigation—and previous findings of congressional oversight committees—make it real. There are no less than six dead bodies connected to Promis, including investigative journalist Danny Casolaro in 1991, a government employee named Alan Standorf, the British publisher and lifelong Israeli agent Robert Maxwell, also in 1991, retired Army CID investigator Bill McCoy in 1997, and a father and son named Abernathy in a small northern California town named Hercules.

The fact that commercial versions of the Promis software are now available for sale directly from Inslaw belies the fact that some major papers and news organisations instantly and laughably use the epithet "conspiracy theorist" to stigmatise anyone who discusses it. Fear may be the major obstacle or ingredient in the myth surrounding modified and "enhanced" versions of Promis that keeps researchers from fully pursuing leads rising in its wake.

I was validated in this theory on September 23rd in a conversation with *From The Wilderness* (FTW) contributing editor Peter Dale Scott, PhD, a Professor Emeritus at UC Berkeley and noted author. Upon hearing details of my involvement, Scott frankly told me that Promis frightened him. Casolaro, who was found dead in a West Virginia motel room in 1991, had Scott's name (Scott is also a Canadian) on a list of people to contact about his Promis findings. He never got that far.

A close examination of the Promis saga actually leads to more than a dozen deaths, many of which share a common pattern where, within 48 hours of death, bodies are cremated, residences are sanitised and all files disappear.

This was the case with my friend Bill McCoy, a (retired) Army CID investigator and the principal investigator for Hamilton in his quest to recover what may be hundreds of millions in lost royalties and reunite him with the evolved progeny of his brainchild.

Those progeny now have names like SMART (Self-Managing Artificial Reasoning Technology) and TECH. I will never forget hearing of McCoy's death and his immediate cremation, and then trying to reconcile that with the number of times he had told me while I was sitting in his Fairfax, Virginia, home that he wanted to be buried next to his beloved wife in spite of the fact that he was a Taoist.

In researching this story, I found a starkly recurring theme. It appeared first in a recent statement I tape-recorded from probably one of the three best informed open sources on the story in the world: William Tyree.

Tyree is a former US Army Green Beret who was framed in 1979 and has been serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, Elaine, outside of Fort Devens, Massachusetts, then home of the 10th Special Forces Group. From his prison cell in Walpole, Massachusetts, he has been a central if little-known figure in the Promis case for many years. If the story is ever fully told, his role may be even more significant than anyone has ever supposed.

The information from Tyree, recorded in a phone conversation on August 28th, and the research work on "block modelling" social research theory, uncovered while researching other leads, both describe the same unique position or vantage point from hypothetical and actual perspectives.

Tyree described an actual physical point in space, further out than ever thought possible and now used by US satellites. This distance is made possible by Promis progeny so evolved that they make the original software look primitive. The social research, which included pioneering mathematical work—apparently facilitating the creation of artificial intelligence—postulated that a similar remote hypothetical position would eliminate randomness from all human activity. Everything would be visible in terms of measurable and predictable patterns—the ultimate big picture. One key website on this is <http://web.syr.edu/~bvmarten/socialnet.html>.

Promis is not a virus. It has to be installed as a program on the computer systems that you want to penetrate. Being as uniquely powerful as it is, this is usually not a problem. Once its power and advantages are demonstrated, most corporations, banks or nations are eager to be a part of the "exclusive" club that has it. And, as is becoming increasingly confirmed by sources connected to this story, especially in the banking system, *not* having Promis (by whatever name it is offered) can exclude you from participating in the ever more complex world of money transfers and money laundering.

### THE FIRST RIP-OFF

According to lawsuits and appeals filed by Hamilton, as well as the records of congressional hearings and the FBI and dozens of news stories, the legend of Promis began in 1981–82.

After a series of demonstrations showing how well Promis could integrate the computers of dozens of US attorneys offices around the country, the Department of Justice (DoJ) ordered an application of the software under a tightly controlled and limited licence. From there, however, Meese, along with cronies D. Lowell Jensen and Earl Brian, allegedly engaged in a conspiracy to steal the software, modify it to include a "trapdoor" that would allow those who knew of it to access the program in other com-

puters, and then sell it overseas to foreign intelligence agencies.

Hamilton began to smell a rat when, for example, agencies from Canada started asking him for support services in French when he had never made sales to Canada.

The Promis-managed data could be anything from financial records of banking institutions to compilations of various records used to track the movements of terrorists. That made the program a natural for Israel—which, according to Hamilton and many other sources, was one of the first countries to acquire the bootlegged software from Meese and Company.

As voluminously described by Inslaw attorney, the late Elliot Richardson, the Israeli Mossad, under the direction of Rafi Eitan, allegedly modified the software yet again and sold it throughout the Middle East. According to Hamilton, it was Eitan, the legendary Mossad captor of Adolf Eichmann, who had masqueraded as an Israeli prosecutor years earlier to enter Inslaw's DC offices and obtain a first-hand demonstration of what Promis could do.

Not too many Arab nations would trust a friendly Mossad agent selling computer programs. So the Mossad provided its modified Promis to flamboyant British publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, a WWII Jewish resistance fighter who had assumed the Anglo name and British citizenship after the War. It was Maxwell, capable of travelling the world and with enormous marketing resources, who became the sales agent for Promis and then

sold it to, among others, the Canadian government. Maxwell drowned mysteriously in late 1991, not long after investigative reporter Danny Casolaro was "suicided" in West Virginia. But Maxwell may not have been the only one to send Promis north.

In the meantime, after winning some successes including a resounding congressional finding that he had been cheated, Bill Hamilton hit his own buzz-saw in a series of moves by the Reagan and Bush Justice departments and rigged court decisions intended to bankrupt him and force

him out of business. He survived and fought on. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties and sales fees were going into the wrong pockets.

As was later revealed from a number of directions, this initial tampering with the software was far from the only game in town. The CIA—through GE Aerospace in Herndon, Virginia (GAO Contract #82F624620)—the FBI and elements of the NSA were all tinkering with Promis, not just to modify it with a trapdoor but to enhance it with artificial intelligence (AI). It's worth it to note that GE Aerospace was subsequently purchased by Martin Marietta, which then merged to become Lockheed–Martin, the largest defence and aerospace contractor in the world. This will become important later on.

Confidential documents obtained by *FTW* indicate that much of the AI development was done at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia Labs, using research from US universities including Harvard, Caltech and the University of California.

And it was not just Reagan Republicans who got their hands on it, either. As we'll see shortly, Promis came to life years *before* the election of Ronald Reagan. According to Bill Tyree, it was also an essential element in the espionage conducted by Jonathan Pollard against not only the US government but the Washington embassies of many nations targeted by Israel's Mossad.

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## THE LAST CIRCLE

For more than a year and a half, members of the RCMP travelled through the US, often in the company of Sue Todd, a savvy female homicide detective from the small California town of Hercules. Even now, questions linger as to what the Canadians were really after. But there is absolutely no question that while surreptitiously in the US, the Mounties spent more time with author and investigative reporter Cheri Seymour than with anyone else. And for good reason.

Seymour, under the pen name of Carol Marshall, is the author of a meticulously researched e-book entitled *The Last Circle* (located at [http://www.lycaem.org/books/books/last\\_circle/](http://www.lycaem.org/books/books/last_circle/)). Anyone seeking to understand the Promis story must include this book as a part of their overall research.

I first met Cheri in person this spring after she had contacted me via the Internet. I travelled to her home, some three hours outside of Los Angeles, and viewed acres of documentation for a saga that started with drug-related murders and police corruption around methamphetamine production in northern California in the 1980s. That investigation later connected politicians like Tony Coelho and major corporations like MCA, and eventually led to a shadowy scientist named Michael Riconosciuto. Familiar names like Ted Gunderson and relatively unknown names like Robert Booth Nichols weave throughout this detailed epic that takes us to the Cabazon Indian Reservation in the California desert and into the deepest recesses of the 1980s Reagan/Bush security apparatus.

Gunderson, a retired FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) from Los Angeles, and Nichols, a mysterious Los Angeles man, exposed through court documents obtained by Seymour as being a career CIA operative, were connected with scientist/programmer Riconosciuto in a sinister, yet now very well documented phase of Promis's development.

In affidavits, Riconosciuto claims that one of the tasks he performed at the Cabazon reservation was to install a back door in the version of Promis that was sold to Canada.

In August of this year, the RCMP investigators told both Seymour and me that they had travelled to the reservation several times and had confirmed many details of Seymour's research. They had also interviewed Riconosciuto on more than one occasion. As with everyone else I have ever met who has spoken with him, both the Mounties and Seymour kept a reserved distance from him and always "counted their fingers after every handshake".

By using treaties between the US government and Native American peoples that recognise Native American reservations as sovereign nations, the CIA has long and frequently avoided statutory prohibitions against operating inside the United States. The financial rewards for tribal nations have been significant, and the extra security afforded by tribal police in remote areas has been a real blessing for covert operatives.

*The Last Circle* describes in detail how Promis software was modified by Riconosciuto allegedly to include the back door "eavesdropping" capability, but also enhanced with one form of AI and subsequently applied to the development of new weapons systems. Some of these may have included "ethnospecific" biowarfare compounds capable of attacking specific races.

Riconosciuto, now serving time in a Federal prison in

Pennsylvania, has a cell a very short distance from fellow espionage inmates Edwin Wilson and Jonathan Pollard. While his tale is critical to understanding what has happened to Promis, the fact remains that Riconosciuto has been out of the loop and in legal trouble for eight years. He has been in a maximum security prison for at least six. So it was surprising when, in 1998, he contacted homicide detective Sue Todd in Hercules and told her that the murder of a father and son, execution style, was connected to the Promis story. One connection was obvious. Hercules is a "company town" connected to a weapons manufacturer, described in Seymour's book, which also connects to the Cabazon Indian Reservation.

## THE THREE BILLS

I lived in Washington, DC, from August 1994 until late October of 1995. It was during that time that I was a semi-regular visitor at the Fairfax, Virginia, home of Bill McCoy, a loveable sixty-something giant, always adorned with a beret, who complained ruthlessly about what had happened to the United States since "the damned Yankee army" had taken over. Writers were "scribblers". People who thought they knew something about covert operations without ever having seen one were "spooky-groupies".

"Mac", as we called him, had his investigative fingers in almost everything, but he was most involved with Promis. McCoy was a

retired Chief Warrant Officer from the US Army's Criminal Investigation Division. He had broken some of the biggest cases in Army history. It was Mac who introduced me to Bill Tyree and Bill Hamilton in 1994.

I recall scratching my head as I would be sitting at Mac's dinner table, when a call would come in from Hamilton asking if there was any new information from Tyree. "Not yet," McCoy would answer. "I'll call as soon as I get something."

"How," I asked, "could a guy in a maximum security prison like Walpole State Penitentiary in Massachusetts be getting information of such quality that someone like Hamilton would be calling urgently to see what had come in?"

That, answered McCoy, was the work of someone known only as "the Sergeant Major", and alternatively as "His Eminence", who fed the information to Tyree, who in turn fed it to McCoy, who then passed it on to Hamilton. Sometimes, however, Tyree and Hamilton communicated directly. To this day, the identity of the Sergeant Major remains a mystery—and the puzzle-piece most pursued by the RCMP when they visited me in August 2000.

It was also not by coincidence, then, that in the same winter of 1994–95 McCoy revealed to me that he was using former Green Berets to conduct physical surveillance of the Washington, DC, offices of Microsoft in connection with the Promis case. FTW has recently received information indicating that piracy of Microsoft products at the GE Aerospace Herndon facility was likely tied to larger objectives, possibly the total compromise of any Windows-based product. It is not by chance that most of the military and all of the intelligence agencies in the US now operate on Macintosh systems.

In late 1996, Tyree mailed me a detailed set of diagrams and a lengthy narrative explaining the exact hows and whys of the murder of Danny Casolaro and an overall view of the Promis saga that is not only consistent with what is described by Seymour in *The*

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*Last Circle* but also provides many new details.

Asked about Mike Riconosciuto for this story, Tyree would say only this: "He's very good at what he does. There are very, very few who can touch him, maybe two hundred in the whole world. Riconosciuto's in a class all by himself."

Those documents, as later described to me by RCMP investigator Sean McDade, proved to be "awesome and right on the money". The essence of those documents is that not only had the Republicans under Meese exploited the software, but the Democrats had also seen its potential and moved years earlier. Nowhere was this connection more clearly exposed than in understanding the relationship between three classmates from the US Naval Academy: Jimmy Carter, Stansfield Turner (Carter's CIA director), and billionaire banker/presidential kingmaker (and Carter's Annapolis room-mate) Jackson Stephens from Arkansas.

The Tyree diagrams laid out in detail how Promis, after improvement with AI, had allegedly been mated with the software of Jackson Stephens's firm, Systematics. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Systematics handled some 60–70 per cent of all electronic banking transactions in the US. The goal, according to the diagrams which laid out (subsequently verified) relationships between Stephens, Worthen Bank, the Lippo Group and the drug/intelligence bank BCCI, was to penetrate every banking system in the world. This "cabal" could then use Promis both to predict and to influence the movement of financial markets worldwide. Stephens, truly bipartisan in his approach to profits, has been a life-long supporter of George Bush, and at the same time he was the source of the \$3 million loan that rescued a faltering Clinton campaign in early 1992. There is a great photograph of Stephens with a younger George "W" Bush in the excellent BCCI history, *False Profits*.

In the fall of 1997, Bill McCoy, who had recently gone off his heart medication, was found dead in his favourite chair. In the days and weeks before, he had been advised by Tyree that a Pakistani hit man, on an Israeli contract, had been in the States seeking to fulfill a hit on McCoy. There had been other hints that someone closer to McCoy might do the job.

Tyree recently told *FTW* that just before McCoy's death he had given him information on "Elbit" flash memory chips, allegedly designed at Kir Yat-Gat south of Tel Aviv. The unique feature of the Elbit chips was that they worked on ambient electricity in a computer; in other words, they worked when the computer was turned off. When combined with another newly developed chip, the "Petrie", which was capable of storing up to six months' worth of key strokes, it was now possible to burst-transmit all of a computer's activity in the middle of the night to a nearby receiver—say, in a passing truck or even a low-flying SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) satellite. According to Tyree, this was the methodology used by Jonathan Pollard and the Israeli Mossad to compromise many foreign embassies in Washington.

Within 48 hours of his death, Bill McCoy's body was cremated, and in less than four days all of Mac's furniture, records and personal belongings had been removed from his home by his son, a full Colonel in the Army. The house had been sanitised and repainted and, aside from the Zen garden in the backyard, there was no trace that McCoy had ever lived there.

## ENTER THE MOUNTIES

Thanks to a strong push in my direction from Cheri Seymour, the Mounties and Hercules PD homicide detective Sue Todd arrived at my door on August 3rd. They had already consumed most of the *FTW* website and were well familiar with my writings. I had let them know, through Cheri, that I did have information on Promis from Bill Tyree and I would be happy to share it.

Before getting into details, we all went out for lunch at a nearby Chinese restaurant. In setting basic outlines for our conversations that day, I indicated that as a journalist I viewed our discussions as off-the-record. I took no notes and did not tape-record any of the discussion. I am recounting the events now, only after corresponding with McDade and advising him of my intention to write. He responded and did not object. I took the same position with Detective Todd. I warned the Mounties and Todd at the outset that a sudden termination of their investigations was likely and that they would all become expendable. It happened to *me* once.

Over lunch, the Mounties were quite candid about the fact that the RCMP had Promis software and that it even went by the name "Promis". I think they may have also mentioned the name "PIRS", which is an acknowledged system in the RCMP network. They stated that they had been given their version of Promis by the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS).

The CSIS broke away from the Mounties in 1984, and was intended to be "purely" an intelligence agency. It was created largely with the expertise and assistance of the CIA. All of us understood two things about that arrangement and we discussed them openly. Firstly, there was a question as to whether or not any intelligence service created by the CIA could be completely loyal to its native country. Secondly, it was also understood that there was a rivalry between the two agencies, similar to the one that existed between the FBI and the CIA or, in a larger context, the Clinton gang and the Bush

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McDade also described in detail how he knew that supposedly secure RCMP communications equipment had been compromised by the NSA. The Mounties acknowledged regular meetings with Cheri Seymour, but evinced none of the interest she said they had previously shown in Mossad. With me, their single-minded focus was Bill Tyree, and where and how he obtained his information.

Sue Todd confirmed for me suspicions that there was an unspoken alliance between the RCMP investigators and the FBI. She said that during the course of her three years of efforts to solve the double murder in Hercules, she had routinely visited FBI offices and enjoyed access to FBI files relative to both the Promis investigation and anything connected to her victims. That information was obviously being shared with the Mounties, and that implied the blessings of the FBI.

In short, a domestic law enforcement officer was sharing information with agents of a foreign government. In some cases that could provoke espionage charges, but in this case it was apparently sanctioned. The Hercules murder victims had no apparent connection to Promis software in any way, except for the fact that Riconosciuto had possessed knowledge about the

murders which he had provided to Todd from prison. The Hercules Armament Corporation, featured in *The Last Circle*, was an obvious link. I also noted that the father in Todd's case had been a computer engineer with passions for both geological research and hypnosis, and no other visible connections to the Promis story.

As we copied Tyree's papers and went through other materials the next day, I was aware that the Canadians were expressing special interest in Jackson Stephens and anything having to do with the manipulation of financial markets. They asked for copies of news reports I had, showing that General Wesley Clark, the recently retired NATO Commander, had just gone to work for Stephens, Inc. in Little Rock, Arkansas. I also provided documents showing that a Stephens-connected firm, Alltel, which had purchased Systematics, was moving heavily into data processing for the mortgage market and HUD [Housing and Urban Development].

As the Mounties repeatedly pressed for information on the identity of the Sergeant Major, I referred them to Tyree directly through his attorney Ray Kohlman, and to Tyree's closest friend Dee Ferdinand, the daughter of CIA bagman and paymaster Albert Carone. (For more on Carone, visit the *FTW* website.) Sean McDade eventually contacted Ferdinand by phone, and shortly thereafter one of the most bizarre twists in the whole story took place.

About a week after meeting the Mounties, I heard back from Sean that the Tyree documents and flow charts from 1996 had been right on the money.

A special recurring theme in those documents that meshes with Seymour's research is that modified versions of Promis software, with both artificial intelligence and trapdoors, were being smuggled out of Los Alamos nuclear labs in containers labelled as radioactive waste. According to Tyree and other sources, the safest place in the world after an Indian reservation, that no one will ever break into, is a nuclear waste dump. This also applies to containers in transit between countries. The radioactive warning label guarantees unmolested movement of virtually anything. Promis software is apparently no exception.

#### AL CARONE AND BILL CASEY FROM THE GRAVE

The story of Albert Vincent Carone has also been covered exhaustively in *FTW*, both in the newsletter and on the website. A retired NYPD detective and also a made-member of the Genovese crime family, Carone spent his entire working career as a CIA operative. For more than 25 years before his mysterious death in 1990, Al Carone served as a bagman and liaison between George Bush, CIA Director Bill Casey, Oliver North, Richard Nixon and many other prominent figures including Robert Vesco, Manuel Noriega and Ferdinand Marcos. The Carone-Tyree connection, covered in detail in *FTW* September 1998 issue (vol. 1, no.7), goes back to operations in the mid-1970s when Tyree, serving with the Special Forces, engaged in CIA-directed missions for which Carone was the paymaster.

Carone's death from "chemical toxicity of unknown etiology" in 1990 resulted in the sanitising of all of his military and NYPD records as well as the theft and disappearance of nearly 10 million dollars in bank accounts, insurance policies and investments.

Virtually overnight, almost every record of Carone disappeared, leaving his daughter and her family nearly bankrupt under the burden of tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

In 1996, Carone's daughter, Dee Ferdinand, discovered that Tyree and Carone had known each other and that Tyree could prove instrumental in helping to restore Carone's lost fortune. Ferdinand filed a suit in US District Court this spring, seeking to recover pensions, insurance policies and benefits in a case which has no known connection to Promis. I have known Ferdinand and her family for more than seven years. Never once has she mentioned a connection between her father and Promis, although she was well familiar with the case from Tyree and conversations with Bill Hamilton. I had referred the Mounties to her because of my belief that she could possibly help identify Tyree's source, the Sergeant Major.

On August 10th, exactly one week after the Mounties came to see me, the DoJ mailed Ferdinand a response to her suit, seeking dismissal. Included in the paperwork was a bizarre document, now in *FTW*'s possession, that by the account of both Ferdinand and her lawyer had absolutely nothing to do with her case. The document in question was a 29 March 1986 Declaration from CIA Director William Casey, a close friend of the Carone family. Paragraph 6 of that document (prepared for another case) stated: "Two of the documents responsive to Plaintiffs' Request No. 1,

specifically the one-page letter dated 28 March 1979 and a one-page letter dated 8 January 1980, have been released in the same excised form as they were previously released by the government of Canada. I independently and formally assert the state secrets privilege for the information excised from these two documents."

Dee Ferdinand called me immediately. The letter had nothing to do with her suit. It mentioned Canada. Canada was not even mentioned in her suit. What was going on?" she asked. "It's blackmail," I answered.

"CIA, which is monitoring everything the Canadians do, everything I do, everything you do, knows that I will tell the Mounties of these letters."

McDade didn't grasp the concept at first. He was a straight-ahead street cop. But I had been through something similar when serving as the press spokesman for the Perot presidential campaign in 1992. I explained it to Sean: "Sean, you and I are just the messengers. But I guarantee that at some level of your government, the CIA's reference to these letters will scare people to death. It is a reminder that CIA has them."

A week later, McDade told me that the dates were indeed significant—very significant. That's all he would say.

*From The Wilderness* has what may be a possible explanation for the dates in question. On the dates these letters were written, the President and CIA Director were Jimmy Carter and Stansfield Turner. Aside from the then recent Russian invasion of Afghanistan, a saga in which the Canadian government played a minor role, the largest drama on the world scene was the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in January 1979, the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini and the seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran later that year. The Canadian government and the CIA worked very closely in Iran, the Canadian Embassy even housing some CIA personnel who had escaped the crowds of students. But that kind of assistance is not something to hide. Another explanation

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was needed to explain the shock waves in Ottawa.

Recently, a source using a code-name known to *FTW* has surfaced with information relating to Promis. In his communiqués he describes the use of Promis software by the Bush family to loot the secret bank accounts of Mañuel Noriega and Ferdinand Marcos. Promis is able to do this because funds can be transferred out of accounts without a trace. Remember the trapdoor? The rule of thumb here is that crooks, especially CIA-sponsored crooks, don't usually go to the cops when somebody steals their stolen money. From my personal experience in the era, and direct exposure to two members of the Iranian royal family, both before and after the overthrow, I am acutely aware that the Shah, then perhaps the richest man in the world, was actually targeted by the CIA. His downfall was no accident. Once worth more than US\$20 billion, the Shah ended his life a refugee in Egypt. Many of his billions disappeared and the family was very upset about it.

Could the financial power of Promis have been turned loose first through Canada when Carter was President in the US? The Shah did a lot of banking in Canada. We may never know the answer. But if the downfalls of wealthy, US-supported dictators Noriega and Marcos are any indication, the answer is likely "yes". And the Shah was wealthier than both of them put together. Where'd all that money go?

#### THE EVOLUTION OF "PROMIS"

On August 25th, the *Toronto Star* broke what was to become a series of stories by Valerie Lawson and Allan Thompson. The cat was out of the bag. Various figures known to have direct connections to Riconosciuto had been virtually dogging the Mounties' every move as they travelled in the US. One even contacted me just days after the Mounties had left LA. It was a story that could not be kept under wraps forever. Most of the *Star* story was accurate. It was going to be difficult for the RCMP to move quietly now.

A Reuters story the same day closed with the following paragraphs:

"Canada's national counterintelligence agency said in a June report that friendly nations were making concerted efforts to steal sensitive technology and information.

"The Canadian Security Intelligence Service said outsiders were particularly interested in aerospace, biotechnology, chemicals, communications, information technology, mining and metallurgy, nuclear energy, oil and gas, and the environment."

That was Geomatics, at the heart of Canada's space program, Canada's flagship space technology. I checked the *Star* story. There had been no mention of high-tech or space-related issues. What did Reuters know? In mid-September, after receiving confidential source documents related to the case, telling me that one version of Promis, modified in Canada, was handled through the Canadian firm I.P. Sharp, I got an answer. A quick search on the web revealed that Sharp, a well-documented component of the case, had been bought by a Reuters company in the early 1990s. Hamilton later told me he had heard that Reuters possibly had the Promis software. That would explain how they knew about the aerospace connection.

Michael Dobbs of the *Washington Post* called and asked what I

knew. I confirmed that I had met with the Mounties but didn't know much else other than give them the Tyree flow charts. The *Post* was never going to tell the truth. Their business was keeping secrets, not revealing them. The Mounties had made waves.

On August 28th, the phone rang and it was a collect call from Tyree. "Get a tape recorder and turn it on," he said. Over the course of the next half an hour, Tyree, obviously reading from detailed and copious notes, named individuals and companies dealing with Promis software and its progeny. He was specific, down to naming specific engineers in military and private corporations doing Promis research. Tyree described specific congressional committees which had been infiltrated with "enhanced" Promis. Tyree described how Promis progeny, having inspired four new computer languages, had made possible the positioning of satellites so far out in space that they were untouchable. At the same time, the progeny had improved video quality to the point where the same satellite could focus on a single human hair. The ultimate big picture.

Promis progeny had also evolved to the point where neural pads could be attached to plugs in the back of the human head, allowing thought to be translated into electrical impulses that would be equally capable of flying a plane or wire-transferring money. Names like Sandia, Caltech, Micron, Tech University of Graz, Oded Leventer and Massimo Grimaldi rolled from his lips as he tore through the pages of notes. Data, such as satellite reconnaissance, could now also be downloaded from a satellite directly into a human brain. The evolution of artificial intelligence had progressed to a point where animal behaviour and thought were being decoded. Mechanical humans were being tested. Animals were being controlled by computer.

Billy Tyree saved Canada for last. He described how Canada had been provided with modified Promis software, which Canada then modified again—or thought they had modified—to eliminate the trapdoor. That software, turned loose in the financial and scientific communities, then became Canada's means of believing that they were securing the trapdoor information from the entities to whom they provided *their* versions of Promis. But,

unknown to the Canadians, the Elbit chips in the systems bypassed the trapdoors and permitted the transmission of data when everyone thought the computers were turned off and secure. Tyree did not explain how the chips physically got into the Canadian computers.

"This," Tyree said, "is how you cripple everything Canada does that you don't like. And if you want proof, I offer you the fact that we toppled the government of Australia in [1975]." "[Prime Minister] Gough Whitlam and Nugan Hand [Bank]," I answered. Tyree affirmed. (He said "1980", but later indicated he had confused the 1975 date with the death of Frank Nugan because the events are connected.) The Whitlam Labor Government had been suddenly unseated after making nationalistic noise and questioning the role of US intelligence agencies in Australian affairs.

The issue of a coming feud between the dollar and the euro

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**The evolution of artificial intelligence had progressed to a point where animal behaviour and thought were being decoded.**

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came up. I suggested that rapidly vanishing support both in South America and Europe was threatening the military operations of "Plan Colombia" and the economic boost it would give the US economy. Tyree jumped in: "If I can put Canada in line and show the eurodollar, the 'Eurotrash', what I have already done to my neighbour, whom I value to some degree... Remember, these are not nice people: these are financial thugs at their worst. So what they are going to do is sit down discreetly and say, 'Look, this is what we did to Canada. Now, would you like us to do this to the European market as well?' Mike, they're not going to think twice about it... A weapon is only good if someone knows what its capability is. Prior to using the atomic bomb, it was irrelevant... They refer to it as the *Nagasaki syndrome*."

After describing in some detail how the financial powers-that-be had gutted American manufacturing productivity through globalisation, he described a strategy intended to halt any move by the euro to overshadow the dollar or even compete with it. It was pure economic hostage-

taking, and Canada would be the object lesson. Then, chillingly, he described something familiar to any military strategist. The penetration and looting of HUD was the test bed, the proving ground, the "White Sands" of the Promis economic atomic bomb. Once the CIA and the economic powers-that-be had proven that over a period of years they could infiltrate and loot \$59 billion from HUD, they knew they could do it anywhere. Said Tyree: "Then they knew they had what it took to go abroad and create mayhem... It was planned twenty years ago."

It took several days to reach Sean McDade, as he had been on vacation. I played the Tyree tape for him over an open phone line into RCMP headquarters. He asked me to make a physical copy right away and send it to him. After he'd had time to listen to it, he cautioned me against sending it anywhere else. I told him that as long as his investigation was active, I would do nothing more than make the standard copies I make of any sensitive documents as a precaution.

I could tell that the tape had rattled him. Though I had known from the start that the large and energetic Mountie, whom I

believed to be a dedicated and honest man, would never be allowed to ride his case out to the end, I still had hopes. But in my heart I knew that Tyree was right. In all the years he had been feeding me information, I had never known him to be wrong—and apparently, neither had Bill Hamilton.

I did not send a copy of the tape to Hamilton because I knew how difficult and potentially dangerous McDade's job was going to be, now that the press had exposed him. Having been a cop in dangerous political, CIA-infested waters, I knew what it was like not to know whom you could trust. If keeping the tape quiet would give the Mounties an edge, I would do it—but only as long as they had a case.

### EXIT THE MOUNTIES

Then it was over. On September 16th, the *Toronto Star* announced that the RCMP had suddenly closed its Promis investigation with the flat disclaimer that it did not have and never did have any version of Bill Hamilton's software. That was as shocking a statement as it was absurd.

"The only way that you can identify

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Promis," said a perplexed Bill Hamilton, "is to compare the code. Sean McDade said that he was not an engineer and couldn't read code, so how did he know?"

Hamilton was as emphatic as I was that McDade had said that RCMP had Promis. So was Cheri Seymour. I offered a fleeting hope that the Mounties were playing a game, saying that they had terminated the investigation to shake some of the incessant probing that had been taking place around McDade's every move.

I was finally convinced when McDade e-mailed me and said that it was his view that the Mounties did not have any version of Promis and that he had no objections if I decided to write a story. I then agreed with Seymour that, whether they had said so or not, both the Mounties and Sue Todd had left enough visible footprints that it was their intention for us to go public. It might be the only protection they had.

As I had predicted from the start, they had come too close to bigger issues and been shut down ruthlessly. I called Sue Todd who lamented that she was marking her three-year homicide investigation,

"Closed by the press". Even though she was convincing, I had the feeling that she was playing back a rehearsed script. I told her that I was not satisfied with the statements that there was no Promis in the RCMP. I recalled our lunchtime conversation of August 3rd. She agreed with me that the RCMP mission was to determine whether or not RCMP Promis was a stolen or compromised version. She knew that they had it. So did I. I e-mailed McDade one last time, saying that I was going to write it like I remembered it. He never got back to me.

Bill Hamilton added one last twist when he told me in a conversation that the Mounties claimed to have developed their software on their own. That, he said, was nonsense because the Mounties did not have that kind of sophistication or ability. He thought that the RCMP program had been specially prepared by the FBI. That would explain the role of retired FBI agent Ted Gunderson. Though I didn't tell him at the time, I knew that he had obtained that information from Bill Tyree. And Bill Tyree and his provider, the Sergeant Major, are two people that Bill Hamilton and I have both learned to respect.

### References

Visit the following websites for additional information:

- [www.capricornholdings.com/index3.htm](http://www.capricornholdings.com/index3.htm)
- [www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/org/ccrsorge.html](http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/org/ccrsorge.html)
- [www.lycaem.org/books/books/last\\_circle/](http://www.lycaem.org/books/books/last_circle/)
- [www.newsmakingnews.com/catharvardmain.htm](http://www.newsmakingnews.com/catharvardmain.htm)
- [www.opengis.org/info/gisworld/OGC.LM.htm](http://www.opengis.org/info/gisworld/OGC.LM.htm)
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*From The Wilderness* describes itself as "a nonpartisan, non-sectarian map from the here that is, into the tomorrow of our own making". Its website postings ([www.copvicia.com](http://www.copvicia.com)) are at least 30 days old.

Subscriptions (12 issues): US\$35.00 for USA and Canada; \$47.00 for Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. *From The Wilderness* Publications, POB 6061-350, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, USA, telephone +1 (818) 788 8791, fax +1 (818) 981 2847, e-mail [mruppert@copvicia.com](mailto:mruppert@copvicia.com).